## Check it out:

Updated election results see Sidhu as County Executive, pg.3

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# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 189, Issue 8

westernfrontonline.com

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

## **Gov. Inslee visits Western** Inslee spoke to classes about climate and energy policies

Jordan Van Beek THE WESTERN FRONT

Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee visited Western's campus on Monday, Nov. 4, to talk to students about climate and energy policy.

Brittany Portillo, an energy policy major and director of the women in energy mentoring network, and Kellen Lynch, an energy studies and Fairhaven major and project manager of the ZeNETH Net Zero Tiny House, escorted Inslee to his car after speaking to the class.

"Brittany Portillo and I were contacted by Huxley's Dean, Steve Hollenhorst," Lynch said. "I believe we were invited because we each have student projects that we're leading at WWU that involve energy and policy. Those are issues that are important to Governor Inslee as well.'



Governor Jay Inslee speaks to students in Academic West on Nov. 4. // Photo courtesy of Rhys Logan

Lynch believes Inslee and his administration have shown much needed leadership for years when it comes to advancing an actionable climate

change agenda. "Jay Inslee is the presidential only candidate that ran on a climate change platform, therefore it was really awesome

for him to come speak to Energy 101 students that will be making decisions in the future like he is right now," Portillo said. "It was a wonderful opportunity

to have the governor Washington of at Western. It really shows that us students are not far from government

see INSLEE, page 4

# Vikings clinch GNAC title



*City creates* improved emergency preparation measures

#### **Merrideth McDowell** THE WESTERN FRONT

Having extra longlasting food, water and medicine can be a matter between life and death in the case of a natural disaster or emergency. Plus, living along the Cascadia Subduction Zone means an earthquake has the potential to wipe out the entire Northwest region, according to Lynn Sterbenz, emergency manager for the City of Bellingham.

Community education on emergency preparation is important, and the average citizen is greatly underprepared.

This year brought many new installments to help the emergency management in Bellingham. Some of the new installments include tsunami modeling videos and evacuation maps that be accessible will through the City of Bellingham website.

Sterbenz advises Bellingham that residents and businesses familiarize themselves with this. If a large earthquake were to occur, tsunami potential is high for the Bellingham area.

The City also created new measures to help ensure the smoothest emergency protocol for the community. In early 2019, the Office of Emergency Management formed the Bellingham Auxiliary Communication Service (BACS). Along with this, the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Communications Plan, was introduced this year. The goal of this plan is to enhance the accessibility of safety information for

## Former HomesNOW! president pleads not-guilty to first degree theft charge

Ella Banken THE WESTERN FRONT

Jim Peterson, former president and co-founder of HomesNOW! pled not-guilty to the charge of theft in the first degree at his arraignment on Friday, Nov. 8.

Peterson's pre-trial hearing is set for Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Peterson was arrested on Friday, Nov. 1, and

booked into Whatcom County Jail on suspicion of first-degree theft. Peterson was released on bail of \$10,000 Monday, Nov. 4.

conservative estimate of funds The misappropriated from the non-profit was \$75,000, according to Lieutenant Claudia Murphy of the Bellingham Police Department.

The maximum penalty for a charge of first degree theft in the state of Washington is 10 years in prison and a fine of \$20,000.

Theft in the first degree, which is the theft of anything that exceeds \$5,000, is considered a class B felony in the state of Washington.

Viking defender Jeremiah Lee (6) leaps in the air, after a corner kick, to score the game winning goal on Saturday, Nov. 9. // Photo by Grady Haskell

see **PREP**, page 4



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Sports Men's basketball their study abroad season begins in victory

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Opinion pg. 9 Are movie theaters becoming elitist?

# 2 | ROUND-UP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019 | THE WESTERN FRONT



Bella Seppi (left) and Ryan Hopkins speak to students about the mission of their club, Shred the Contract, on Thursday, Nov. 7. // Photo by Claire Ott



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### The Western Front

The Western Front Vestern Washington Universit 98225 mmunications Facility Bellingham, WA Newsroom number 360-650-3162 Email address: westernfrontonline@gmail.com

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enrolled at Western may

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to send them our way or

discuss sharing

information

confidentially.

As of Nov. 12... State Senator: Elizabeth (Liz) Lovelett -75.79%

Executive: Satpal S. Sidhu - 51.1% Mayor: Seth Fleetwood - 53.47% City Council: Hannah E. Stone - 62.89% Daniel Hammil - 74.23% Lisa Anderson - 67.05% Hollie Huthman - 80.2%

Kathy Kershner - 75.45% Ben Elenbaas - 58.54% Carol Frazey - 60.86%



Baked Ham - Hempler's Ham - Ferndale, WA Green Bean Casserole - Ostroms Mushrooms, Olympia, WA • Sunset Farms Onions - Prosser, WA • Edaleen Dairy - Lynden, WA Red Pepper & Mushroom Pesto Pizza - Ostroms Mushrooms, Olympia, WA • Kings Gourmet Pesto - Everett, WA • Butternut Squash Bisque - Cloud Mountain Squash - Everson, WA • Bolthouse Carrots - Prosser, WA • Sunset Farms Onions - Prosser, WA Cream of Mushroom - Ostroms Mushrooms, Olympia, WA • Edaleen Dairy - Lynden, WA • Sky Valley Ginger - Monroe, WA • Sunset Farms Onions - Prosser, WA Creamy Chicken Rice Soup - Draper Valley Farms Chicken - Skagit Valley, WA, • Bolthouse Carrots - Prosser, WA • Edaleen Dairy - Lynden, WA

## WHO'S WINNING?

### County Council:

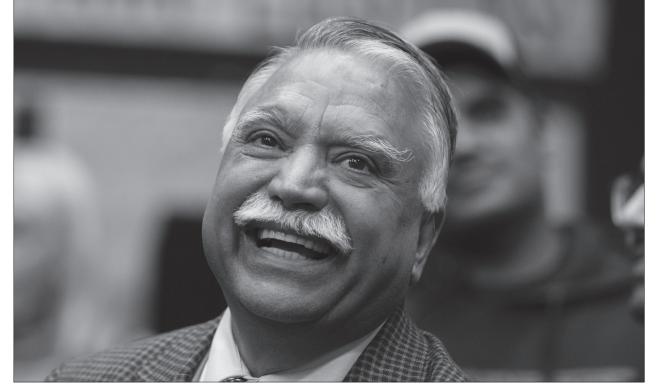
#### Sheriff:

Bill Elfo - 69.02%

#### Assessor:

Rebecca Xczar - 50.85%

## NEWS | 3 Updated election results see Sidhu as County Executive



Satpal Sidhu after a short speech thanking everyone for their support during his campaign on Nov. 5. "I'm so proud. So proud of my party, so proud of my team, that we have been able to do this and maintain [our] values" Sidhu said. // Photo by Grady Haskell

FIRST

## Food access through community Western, non-profits host event surrounding food security

#### **Ana Soltero** THE WESTERN FRONT

between Tucked in Fairhaven Dorms and Buchanan Towers is a five acre, student-run farm where students, faculty and local organization representatives met to discuss a shared desire: food access and education. These community based dialogues were hosted by Community Connect in The Outback farm on Tuesday, Nov.

Community Connect is a program between Western and local nonprofits. Western invites nonprofits to lead dialogues with the campus community. Every year, Community Connect has a different theme for their events. This year's focus is food access and security.

"It is always about what the community knows and what we can learn from them," Laurel Hammond, a specialist with the Center for Community Learning Program, said.

In attendance were two representatives from two major Bellingham community organizations, the Bellingham Food Bank and Common Threads Farm, in addition to the manager of The Outback. The Outback started in

1972 and consists of a five-

**INSLEE** 

continued from page 1

power and that's how it

students to vote in the Nov.

5 general election during his

opportunity to connect

personally with our governor,

as I recognize it as a privilege

to have access to not only our

highest state representative,

but to a nationally-known

perience can help encourage

students to be advocates for

across the state need all the

encouragement they can get

to become the next genera-

tion of policy makers and ad-

vocates for a clean-energy future," Lynch said. "Right

now, the only thing certain

about the future of students

is that all of our lives will be

colored by the impacts of cli-

mate change. We're in this

slee talked to professor Charlie Barnhart's Energy 101

class in Academic Instruc-

tional Center West room 210

Inslee has been to West-

ern's campus on at least four

occasions since he's been

governor, according to Becca

Kenna-Schenk, executive di-

rector of Government Rela-

from 2:15-2:45 p.m.

tions.

On his scheduled visit, In-

one together."

Lynch said how this ex-

"Students at Western and

figure," Lynch said.

a clean-energy future.

Inslee also advocated for

"I am thankful for the

should be.<sup>3</sup>

visit to campus.

acre plot that stretches from Fairhaven to Buchanan Towers. It is part of a delineated wetland.

"Delineated means that someone has actually looked at it, mapped it and decided that this is an area that is worth protecting. It is legally a protected space and cannot be developed," Terri Kempton, The Outback farm manager, said.

Kempton said she has visited a lot of campus farms, but they do not look like the one in Western's backyard.

"A lot of other farms are flat and they are sunny, Kempton said. "It makes it really easy to take care of and really easy to drive machinery on. You get all that sunlight, you do not have to worry about your plants getting too much shade from trees. We do not necessarily have that same situation."

Although it might seem that this delineated wetland would result in a burden, The Outback is able to employ some permaculture practices as a result. Permaculture refers to a method in which the surrounding environment is incorporated into agricultural practices. This allows for a self-sustaining ecosystem. sustainable agricultural development.

"The idea is that it is a

form of producing food and of living sustainably," Kempton said. "It is so sustainable that you can kind of do it forever without ever draining those resources and with regenerating the ecosystem you live in.'

The main goal at The Outback is to teach students about farming, even if they come in not knowing anything about it, Kempton said. The Outback is a space that allows for self-empowerment when it comes to learning about food systems and providing food for themselves

The Bellingham Food Bank has served the community for 46 years. It has five distributions per week at three locations.

"I very quickly saw that there is a profound need in our community, and I did not have that recognition before the job that I am in now," Kristin Costanza, Bellingham Food Bank communications coordinator, said.

Costanza has been with the Bellingham Food Bank for almost three years. She started her current job in 2016 right around Thanksgiving.

"There is a profound community that wants to meet that need with food, care, volunteering, support, hope and everything it takes to overcome hunger in the context of giving food to people in need," Costanza said.

Costanza said the food bank has trucks driving around town Monday through Friday, making stops at 16 separate locations. These locations include Haggen, Costco, Trader Joe's and even Starbucks.

The food bank gets about 5,000 pounds of food every day. A good deal of them are perishable items that are stored in their refrigerators, Costanza said

"We reflect our community, we serve our community, but our community serves us, too," Costanza said. "We wouldn't do business the way we do if we did not have a community saying 'we like that, we think fresh food is the way to go.'

Common Threads Farm was founded in 2006. The organization is a nonprofit "that promotes a seed-to-table approach to food production, nutrition and environmental stewards," according to their website.

"We garden and cook with kids. We like to say that we grow good eaters," Laura Plaut, executive director for Common Threads, said.

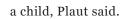
Common Threads started as the result of Plaut becoming a mom. She started to see the world through the eyes of

preparation staff take over the details.

On preparedness, Council Member Michael Lilliquist doubts most citizens are truly prepared to sustain them-

"I wonder how many people are receiving the new advice,' Lilliquist said. "Having a gallon of water extra isn't enough

Sterbenz advises people to be prepared for sustaining two weeks without food or water for all members of the house-



"I started to notice everything that was at [my son's] eye level at grocery stores. The next time you go through a store, just pretend you are as tall as your knees and think about the powerful marketing that is being done to your knees and therefore to your kid's eyes," Plaut said.

Her challenge was to think about how healthy food choices can be the joyful and easy choice for children, Plaut said.

"We're really in the business of helping kids - and by extension their families - to make joyful connections with food," Plaut said. Common Treads employ-

ees cook and eat with children. Twenty-four Whatcom County schools and five school districts work with Common Threads, Plaut said.

Common Treads employees cook and eat with children. Twenty-four Whatcom County schools and five school districts work with Common Threads, Plaut said. Most are elementary schools, though there are some middle schools in the mix. The organization is working on extending their reach to high schools

"After a major disaster, 40% of small businesses never reopen and another 25% go out of business a year later" Sterbenz said. "Without these businesses, people are unemployed, children have a hard time going back to school, and the goods and services the community relies on are gone.<sup>2</sup>

### Things to consider for business owners:

- How will your supplies be replenished if the highway system is damaged?
- Do you have enough savings in case your business needs to remain closed for a few weeks?
- Who are your essential
- employees? How will you contact your employées after a disaster?
- Is there a way for people to work remotely if they are unable to get to work?

#### Noah Harper THE WESTERN FRONT

An average winter low temperature in Bellingham is around 30 degrees, the prime temperature hypothermia. According to the National Weather Service, hypothermia is possible even at temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees.

Hypothermia occurs due to "prolonged exposure to very cold temperatures. When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it is produced," according to the CDC website. If not treated with urgency, hypothermia will lead to a cold and untimely death.

People who are homeless are among the highest risk for hypothermia, according to the CDC. With winter fast approaching, what steps are being taken in Bellingham to keep those who are homeless off the street during the frigid nights?

This coming winter, the city, with some help from the county, is working with local nonprofit organizations and community churches to provide sufficient shelter for the homeless in preparation for sub-freezing temperatures like last year.

Alongside Lighthouse Mission Ministries, the city is partly funding two full-season shelters, and the Whatcom County Health Department is coordinating with four local churches to create emergency overnight shelters.

"[Last winter] we pretty much rode the line of capacity significantly," Director of Lighthouse Mission Hans Erchinger-Davis said. "This year we anticipate even more, sooner reaching the capacity. Toward the end of October, we noticed ourselves getting up to the 150 mark for the drop-in center. A year ago, at the end of October, we [were] at 130. And so we have some concerns that we're going to hit capacity sooner this year than last year.

The Lighthouse Drop-In Centre can hold up to 150 residents at night and all five



#### PREP continued from page 1

everyone including non-English speakers.

Sterbenz is in charge of handling the new installments for Bellingham residents and helping to ensure that people are informed on emergency preparation.

important "The most change is the addition of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to our existing alert and notification system in November of this year," Sterbenz said.

This makes it easier for mass broadcasting of messaging emergency news through multiple avenues at once. City Council Member Gene

Knutson elaborated on Bellngham's recent improvements of winter storm protocol.

"We've stepped up our police patrols, which is in case of a natural disaster," Knutson said.

A larger police force means more widespread aid on the account of an emergency.

The City Council approves emergency protocol for the city, and it is usually revised every few years if needed to accommodate any environmental changes. After the adopted emergency plan, emergency

selves.

anymore."

hold including pets. Sterbenz stressed how im-

> portant it is for businesses to be prepared in our community.



A tsunami evacuation route sign in downtown Bellingham near the Waterfront District on Monday, Nov. 11. // Photo by Merrideth McDowell

## **Emergency shelters fight overflow**

The City of Bellingham, Whatcom County team up to help accomodate housing needs this winter

for

Executive



The Lighthouse Mission Ministries on Sunday, Nov. 10. // Photo by Noah Harper

Lighthouse facilities combined can sleep 250, Erchinger-Davis said. Lighthouse accepts men, and women and children but separates by gender or by family at night.

"I think what we have in place this year might just be enough in terms of the number of beds available," said Michael Lilliquist, city council member and member of the county's homeless strategies work group. According to Lilliquist, the reason why there are only four emergency shelters is because it was not a predetermined number, and those churches volunteered

their services. Last year the collection of churches, led by Lighthouse Mission, were the ones who coordinated to provide emergency shelters while the city operated the Civic Center, Erchinger-Davis said. This year the county took lead on the emergency shelters, playing a larger role in this winter than last winter.

"In the past I think the county has failed to fully recognize their centrality in dealing with homelessness, in particular with shelter services, but this is improving," Lilliquist said "Whether or not you freeze to death in the winter is a health crisis that should be handled by the health department."

But what happens when Lighthouse Mission and the Civic Center are filled? Where can the homeless go next and how do they know what has vacancy? This is where the emergency shelters come into

emergency The four shelters, located in Christ the King Church. Fountain Community Church, Garden Street United Methodist Church and Seventh Day Adventist Church, open if the outside temperature, including wind chill, drops below 28 degrees and all other shelters are at capacity.

People who are homeless are encouraged to call (360)7887983 to find which emergency shelters will be open that night. Starting Nov. 1, an emergency winter shelter hotline will be updated daily.

"We find there's a lot of word-of-mouth, they know what's available and if things are still up and they hear about it from their friends," Erchinger-Davis said. "[The homeless] will oftentimes find other solutions for themselves. They might stay with somebody in a motorhome or they might have that one spot that only they know about."

Jason Lenhart, who has been homeless on-and-off for the last four years, spent his winter last year not in a shelter but on a boat, though he still thinks that more warm places are needed over the winter.

"I think one of the hardest things during this time of the vear as it gets into winter is [helping] people stay warm, said Lenhart. "It would probably be a good idea if they were able to find a bigger

building or even a couple smaller buildings for us to stay in because sometimes during the winter we can only fit so many people here, and then sometimes during the winter we had to turn some people away. We had a couple people we had to do that to last year and they ended up not making it through the winter."

The best way to help out this winter is to volunteer, Lilliquist and Erchinger-Davis said. Lighthouse Mission receives no money from the city and thus, thrives on donations and volunteers.

"We never received any government money, and we need a lot of financial support," Erchinger-Davis said. "It's always nice to have a donation of hats and socks.

"One of the things that's holding us back from opening up more shelters – or for that matter may hold us back in terms of the current shelters – is volunteer burnout, Lilliquist said.



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## The world of Western's study abroad program

#### **Elizabeth Hall** THE WESTERN FRONT

"You do not visit another culture to teach about your own but to learn how much you can take as a person, and to question what you have grown up thinking is the 'right way' of doing things," fourth-year student Megan Phillips said.

Ryan Larsen, director of Education Abroad, said only 3% of university students nation-wide study abroad. Western has over 700 traveling per year, which is 4.5% of the student body. If studying abroad sounds intriguing, there are options to explore. Students can choose programs spanning anywhere from a week to an entire year, Larsen said.

The most common times to go abroad are during a student's second year due to the flexibility in students' schedules, since they are allowed to take GURs and electives more freely, Larsen said.

There can occasionally be difficulty in transferring classes after studying abroad. Larsen said it's extremely important to discuss everything with your adviser.

If students don't get their pre-approved by courses their academic adviser before leaving, it could set back their graduation, Larsen said. However, some students intentionally study abroad to learn a language more thoroughly instead of taking major-required courses.

"In this case, while they might get a little behind in their major, they're certainly not getting behind in life! Larsen said.

Fourth-vear student Hannah Mietzner, studied in France for an entire school year. Her goal was to learn a lot of French and get in touch with a different culture. Mietzner studied at the University of Grenoble Alps, the third largest university in France. Professors taught international students on a basis of speaking only French.

"I was told if my main goal is to learn French then I shouldn't go to Paris," she said. She chose the city of Grenoble because there were many credit opportunities and home stay options. She stayed with a host family to fully immerse herself in the culture.

The study abroad application process was long for Mietzner. She had phone consultations with the cultural experiences abroad program and meetings with the study abroad office and French department. To get her visa, she had to fly to San Francisco.

The education system in France is very different compared to the U.S., Mietzner said. Instead of letter grades, students are graded on a point system from zero to 20, with 14 and above being an A.

This system made it difficult to transfer her grades back



The Grand Canal in Venice, Italy on Oct. 27, 2018. // Photo courtesy of Hannah Mietzner because the credits were hard

to compare. "I was really upset because I thought everything was not going to be counted," Mietzner said.

Phillips studied abroad during the summer of 2018 in Montreal for four weeks and in Guanajuato, Mexico, this past summer for five weeks.

Phillips said she chose Montreal because of the variety in French language. She is majoring in French and Spanish, with a minor in International Studies.

"As a world language learner, I felt it was important to learn about a new accent, culture, and history in connection to my major," she said. In Mexico, some of Phillips' classes were held in a coin museum in the center of Guanajuato.

said besides Larsen traditional study abroad, students can do an exchange program in which they switch places with an international student coming to Western. Another option, the Global Learning program, lets students learn from Western faculty while abroad. Students can study at a university, study center or in the field with internships.

Phillips said both of her study abroad trips were Global Learning programs, and her trip to Mexico cost around \$5,000 for 12 credits. For her trip to Montreal, the cost estimated \$4,500 which included tuition for 8 credits, housing and program fees.

There are affordable ways to travel to learn when using federal grants, loans and scholarships, Larsen said. The school has cost-effective programs as well to fit the budget of the student.

"I was a low-income, Pell Grant student, and I studied abroad for an entire academic year at a university in Costa Rica," Larsen said.

If they have a major in which they join classes with a group of students, then we encourage that they go abroad for the summer instead because the difficulty in going

during the academic year is they will miss too many classes that are required to progress, Larsen said.

your second language.

speaking Spanish.

"And it can be disheartening

Phillips fully immersed

when you feel like you're not

herself in the culture during

her Guanajuato trip by staying

with a host family and solely

allowed her to take classes in

dance, drawing and stamp-

making from community

members. On the weekend, the

culture class went on outings

norms were difficult to adapt

to, but these differences made

the experience special for her.

and understanding the French

culture were the biggest

challenges for Mietzner, as

well as having to navigate

transportation systems in a

enriching," Mietzner said.

"I found the challenge to be

Mietzner also struggled with

her reading. She said in the

French language, it is almost

impossible to understand what

you're reading if you don't

"Allow yourself to make

mistakes and try new things

because if you don't get out of

your comfort zone, you can't

optimize your once in a lifetime

for Phillips was learning to

make mistakes as well. Her

advice to future students going

to a non-English speaking

area is to not be afraid to mess

up and to push through the

struggle until you reach your

to go with the flow, accept

what you cannot change and

learn from it while you're at it,"

The first step in studying

abroad is to attend a Western

Abroad 101 session. They are

only 20 minutes long and

inform students on what to do

into the world to study abroad,

of the world back with them to

Bellingham," Larsen said.

"When our students go out

"This trip taught me to learn

goal

Phillips said.

next, Larsen said.

The value of studying abroad

experience," Mietzner said.

understand 95% of the words.

different language.

Being instantly independent

Phillips said the cultural

around different cities.

She said her culture class

being understood," she said.

For Phillips, the application process was straightforward and smooth. She said she filled out a form through the Study Abroad office in January, and got a response in March. From there, she had three sessions of training that lasted eight hours each, but those sessions gave her a chance to bond with classmates.

Larsen said the main reason for studying abroad is to give students a chance to meet their academic goals and to simultaneously learn from the community and culture. The experience is meant to be immersive and integrative, helping students build resilience, independence and adaptability.

Mietzner recommends the experience. She got to travel to many places in France and Italy, as well as cities like Amsterdam, Geneva, Brussels and Bruges

"One of my favorite days in Grenoble was hiking up the Bastille, an old military fort overlooking the big city, and my friend and I relaxed in the sun and had a picnic at the top," Mietzner said.

On Phillips' Mexico trip, she got to interact with the Spanish-speaking culture that she had encountered for most of her life.

"I wanted to gain an experience that I could share and connect with my friends and their families," Phillips said.

Classes in Montreal were also unique, Phillips said. Her professor gave the students real-life situations to use language vocabulary and grammar.

Phillips said this included having them go to pharmacies, ask for directions in a hospital, wander around the city asking people about their bagel preferences, receiving \$20 each to go search out food and use their new French bargaining skills in Montreal.

Phillips said it was tiring being required to always speak

If you could study abroad anywhere, where would it be and why?



'Korea, because I love Korean culture, and I love

K-pop music.'



#### **Emilia Truax Environmental Policy**

"Thailand. It has to do with sustainable fishing practices which is really interesting. It is also one of the last nomadic ocean communities.



**Grace Atkinson Psychology** 

Germany because that's where my family is from."



**Ben Malquist Computer Science** 

"Australia. I just always wanted to go to Australia. It would be a nice opportunity to study abroad and go on a vacation."

**Compiled by Elizabeth Hall** we hope they bring a little bit

## Veterans honored in spoken-word ceremony

**Kiki Huntington** THE WESTERN FRONT

Just inside the doors of the Multi-Purpose Room stood a table adorned with a neatlyfolded American flag, bible and a single plate setting. It stood to represent and honor soldiers missing or fallen in action for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Western on Friday Nov. 9.

Across from this table stood members of the newly formed Young Veterans Committee, through the American Legion Post 7, representing the many aspects of Veterans Day. Western has a large Veteran

community with approximately 210 student Veterans, 220 department Veterans and 100 faculty and staff Veterans according to President Sabah Randhawa. The ways in which Western, as a community, can make sure they feel welcome expand farther than having a Veterans Day ceremony every year.

The ceremony was held by the president's office and University Residences. The theme of the event was loosely based around spoken word. Bambi Lewis, U.S. Navy Veteran and AS Veterans community coordinator, chose the theme because of its power.

Speakers at the event included Randhawa, university faculty members and Veterans Lewis, Jesse Atkins and Nick Sanchez. The Western brass ensemble



University

performed the "Pledge of Allegiance." Lewis said she got chills hearing them rehearse and was looking forward to their performance.

She said about 50 people attended last year but she was hoping for a better turnout this year because they are back in the Viking Union. This year they set up about 200 seats and nearly all of them were full.

Sanchez, Marine Corps Veteran and director of Veteran's Services Office, delivered a speech that had the audience laughing and crying. Sanchez started his speech by addressing the possible language barrier when it comes to military lingo.

"Vets, you're gonna hear me share some things that are military related. You're gonna understand the language and the context." Sanchez paused and added with a chuckle, "and for our civilian friends, turn to a Veteran if you need help understanding something."

Meanwhile, Atkins read a piece he wrote for Stories Deployed, an event run through Western's Veteran's Outreach Services, and Lewis read "My Name is Old Glory" by Howard Schnauber to continue the spoken word theme.

Sanchez uses Veterans Day as a day to remember people and reflect.

"I think make it your own celebration," Sanchez said. "I'm not really for telling people how to celebrate their day. For some folks, it's a day off of work



Sanchez gave his speech during the Veterans Day Ceremony on campus. // Photo by Kiki Huntington

– fantastic – and for others, it means quite a bit more. To each his or her own."

Anyone can choose whether or not to celebrate but Lewis believes that a good way to honor Veterans is to wear a pin to show support -- like a red poppy or American flag -volunteer, or donate to a charity that supports Veterans.

Lewis and Young Veterans Committee members Roxanne Medina and Chelsea Allen agreed that a good way to honor Veterans is to volunteer.

"We have lots of opportunities if you are looking to volunteer. Tom [Buvas, volunteer and service coordinator] is helping with toys for tots drive in the next couple of weeks," Allen said. "We're getting that fired

up," Buvas added. "Anyone can volunteer for toys for tots."

Randhawa said the two main reasons for honoring Veterans is the sacrifices they've made and what they bring to the campus in terms of diversity.

"It's a tremendous asset," Randhawa emphasized. "I think they add a lot to our community.

He said the best way to honor Veterans, especially those on campus, is to make them feel welcome and a part of the community at Western.

"Many of them are coming from significant experiences, those experiences at times are not pleasant," Randhawa said. "When they come back, they don't naturally mix with the student community." He further said this could be

due to age or experience. "Reaching out and making

sure that they are assimilating. in the sense that they are feeling welcome," Randhawa said is the most important thing.

All speakers and members of the Young Veterans Committee wished to make Veterans feel welcome at Western and to make their transition as smooth as possible.

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## Leaving an imprint on Bellingham Downtown print shop combines old, new technologies

#### **MacKenzie Dexter** THE WESTERN FRONT

Hundreds of unique cards, prints and stationary bits are scattered throughout Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress in downtown Bellingham. Owners Carly James and Kevin Nelson spent the weekend preparing for the holiday season and their new releases. Their three dogs and an abundance of paper goods, ink and trinkets kept them company.

James began the business in 2004 with her husband Nelson in her early twenties. Before moving to their downtown location in 2015, James mainly did custom printing such as wedding invitations, business packages and greeting cards. She also worked in the print industry in her early twenties. This helped her realize she wanted to start her own business, even though she didn't have a background on how to start a company.

"I was just driven to want to work for myself and start my own company," James said. "So we didn't know a lot when we started. We just knew that we wanted to have this print studio."

In 2015, James and Nelson launched the retail side of their business and started collaborating with artists as well as taking a sustainable approach. James said they use compostable and recyclable materials, low impact cleaners for the press and minimal waste.

"Honestly, our planet is in a crisis right now," James said. "And as far as printmaking goes, we have choices that we can make.'

Manufacturing businesses always involve some type of waste, but they try their best to minimize it, James said. Especially since they are in a community that appreciates sustainability along with high quality, tangible products.

"People still want to hold something and touch something," James said.

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Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress' primary focus is on their letter-pressed goods as well as their collaboration with local artists, such as Phoebe Wahl. Wahl is a freelance illustrator who sells her art through Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress as well as her own shop in Bellingham. Collaborating with Wahl has allowed both their businesses to grow.

"Through her we've been able to grow our business and grow our businesses together," James said.

Randy Walker, a featured artist, said small businesses not only provide local jobs, they pull the community together.

"Bison is one of those risktakers," Walker said. "They don't make cards designed for mass audience appeal. They aren't Hallmark. And they reach out to a wide range of local artists, giving their work exposure in the form of beautiful, quality letterpress.'

The shop gives direct support to creatives in the community while also providing an exciting shopping experience, said Brennan Commons, Western design student and Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress customer.

"Bison is a good example of a business which has a system in which it can support these local artists and help them as so many Bellingham residents have helped them get started," Commons said.

The illustrations drawn by local artists are either scanned or drawn on a computer. However, their 1960s letter presses create their signature looks.

"We are kind of a blend of new technology and old technology," James said. At the moment, Nelson is

the person to run the press, mix the ink and run the production side of the business. "Kevin [Nelson] is back

there mixing the inks, setting up each plate, one color at a



The production room at Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress on Nov. 2. // Photo by MacKenzie Dexter

time, running it through the press, cleaning it off, running it through again," James said.

Nelson may spend days working on one print before it is complete. While the press was intimidating at first, Nelson taught himself how to run it through patience and trial and error.

"It is more labor intensive and there are cheaper cards and calendars out there, but that's not really what we're doing," James said.

According to James, Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress is not striving to be the next big stationary brand. They enjoy being a small business and want to keep it that way through their minimal batches and their letter presses.

"These [the press] are the heart of the company and they're really fun to work on," Nelson said. "But you're surfing it as you go, you're changing as the pile goes down, you're changing the suction and the angle of

things. And so you are always tweaking it as you run." grooves and The

depressions in each card, notebook and poster are a signature staple in each Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress According product. to Nelson, it gives an antique touch to modern products.

can't do on modern printing presses, which is why these printing presses still have a function for people who are tactical and like the feel of

Recently, James enrolled in classes at Whatcom Community College and is hoping to get a degree in accounting so she can run the business more independently. James has also discovered how much she enjoys the bookkeeping side of a business and how it eases the stress of running a business

"So for the past five years, I've taken over doing the bookkeeping for the business, and it was a surprise to me,

but it's something I'm really good at and it's something that I actually enjoy," James

working full time can get busy, James said. When she was going to school as a younger student she struggled. She lost interest and decided she wanted to pursue her own career. However, being an older student, she appreciates the new topics she is learning. "And so now that I'm

learn about otherwise.' James said.

student, James said it's important for students to focus planning their own business. "If you're in school, just

putting everything into that and getting as good as you can get before you make that next step is probably a good thing to do," James said.

said. Going to school and

older, I feel like it's just a nice opportunity to learn about something I wouldn't

As a business owner and a on school, especially when



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Picture this, it's 1975 and the newest Steven Spielberg movie just hit the theaters. It's a Friday night and you and your friends have a couple bucks to spare, so you

in the shared experience of consuming a motion picture with 40 other onlookers. There is something so special and nostalgic about the smell of popcorn, the taste of the candy, the cushioned seats, the dark theater and the big screen in front of you.

But nowadays, when looking for something to do on a boring weekend night, it seems impossible to spending such a huge chunk

of change on a movie ticket. It has been said many times that the downfall of movie theaters can be attributed to the access of streaming services like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon, but I'd have to disagree. While many of us are, in fact, using these conveniences in the comfort of our homes, a lot of us still long for that magical experience. It is my belief that movie theaters would still be thriving if it weren't for the absolutely ridiculous ticket

What used to be a shared experience that everyone could partake in, has now become, in a way, an elitist privilege. It saddens me. As an individual living in residential Bellingham, if I want to see a new movie at the local Regal Cinema,

**GUEST EDITORIAL** 

Several stickers and posters of the supremacist organization Patriot Front were found on campus on Monday, Sept. 23. Since then, I have barely heard a word about this upsetting occurrence. Western consists primarily white students, professors and faculty. This is a calculated statistic, an accurate fact and an observable reality. According to the "Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion" webpage on Western's website, 82.89% of faculty and staff, as well as 74% of all students, are white.

Understandably, it is difficult to realize the emotional impact on a person whose very identity is being threatened by hate groups unless it was done to you, as Patriot Front threatened people of color on campus. Although the majority of faculty, staff and students at Western are presumably avid opponents of white

"That's something you raised images," Nelson said.

# **OPINION | 9**

## Movie theaters are becoming elitist

go to the cinema, and marvel almost iustify prices set forth these days.





#### Illustration by Audra Anderson

I have to pay nearly \$13 for a standard ticket, or nearly \$18 for IMAX, not including tax. The current minimum wage is \$12 an hour. To view a movie in a theater, which used to be something anyone could dig up some change for, I now have to spend the money I make an hour. For a family of four (adjusting for

youth ticket prices and including tax), that is roughly \$48, not to mention the outrageous concession prices, which could easily tip the total to close to \$100. We've all heard the stories from our parents. On lazy Saturday afternoons their parents would take them, their siblings and all of their friends to the movies as something fun to pass the time. My mom always tells me she saw "Grease" in theaters at least 10 times. In today's world, it takes a really special movie to get us out of the house and breaking the bank.

If ticket prices were cut in half, I would be seeing a new movie every single weekend, which to me seems like a no brainer. Nobody is showing up for films, yet prices remain so high. Doesn't the obvious solution seem to be to lower prices? In a shaky economy, people's budget for entertainment is the first to go, but I think it's the

thing we need the most. Films have a history of bringing communities together, providing lighthearted relief during times of war and hardships and educating children at such formative ages. I think we could all use a little more moviegoing in our lives.

Want to submit a letter to the editor or a guest editorial? Email us at:

westernfront. opinion@ gmail.com

Do you still go to the movie theater? Why or why not?



**Olivia Wilkins** Undeclared No, I don't, because I'm broke."



**Svdney Alexander Creative Writing** 

"I do, not as often as I used to. The reason I go is because I still enjoy the theater experience."



Catherine Camcheff **Financial Economics** 

"No because it's expensive for the risk that I might not end up enjoying the movie."



**Lilian Grav** Marine Biology

"I only go a few times a year. It's cheaper to watch movies at home."



**Jasper Summy** 

"Yeah, I go the movie theater. I think it's for the entire experience, getting popcorn and Icees. '

Compiled by Aidan Wiess

## I Can't Hear You! A response to white nationalist stickers found on campus

white

supremacist idealogy, far fewer are of racial and/or religious backgrounds that are actively threatened by the recent Patriot Front posters spread around campus this past week.

It would be naive to expect a community full of varying opinions, ages and perspectives to respond perfectly to incidents of white supremacy. I also recognize that just because someone does not voice their opinions and/or emotions about something does not mean they are indifferent. That said, internal feelings and thoughts do not get us very far. It is not the job of people of color and religious minorities to step up and fight back, and it is exhausting to fight without much help from those in positions of power and privilege.

If your heart does not skip a beat when you receive a Western Alert telling you that white supremacy is freshly alive on this campus,

it is time to do the following: engage in supportive and proactive discussion, show solidarity with community of color and members religious minorities, and be vocal when it comes to refusing white supremacy and other dangerous movements infiltrating our campus. The moment we let incidents like this pass without passionate discussion and enraged refusal is the moment we

allow racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism to linger on our campus - making people of color and religious minorities feel unsafe and degrading our collective community.

- Western student Jordan Carey



**Business Administration** 

# 10 | SPORTS

## Vikings clinch GNAC title with stellar defense

Men's soccer wins GNAC title, spot in NCAA championship tournament



Western men's soccer team takes home the GNAC title after winning 1-0 against Montana State on Saturday, Nov. 9. // Photo by Grady Haskell

**Conor Wilson** THE WESTERN FRONT

Chilling rain washed over the turf at Robert S. Harrington field on Saturday night, Nov. 9, and with it the Viking men washed away an 11-year championship drought.

With a 1-0 victory over third-place Montana State University Billings, the No. 19 Viking men's soccer team won its third regular season Great Northwest Athletic Conference title in program history, and first since 2008.

The top spot in the GNAC also secures the Vikings' spot in this year's NCAA Division II championship tournament. This will be the team's second tournament appearance in program history and first since 2016, according to the team's website.

The win improves the Vikings' record to 9-0-1 in conference play and 12-3-1 overall. The victory also extends the team's winning streak to eight games and its unbeaten streak to 11.

Although the team only needed a tie across its final three games to secure the GNAC title, the Vikings came

out fast, controlling most of the possession and outshooting the Yellowjackets 11-2 in the first half.

The Vikings broke through in the 54th minute, when senior defender and team captain Jeremiah Lee volleyed a corner kick – delivered by junior midfielder Georg Cholewa — into the lower right corner just beyond the goalkeeper's reach for his second goal of the season.

"Everyone was fantastic," said seven-year head coach Greg Brisbon. "Jerimiah [Lee] came up big as a senior captain scoring the game winner. That was special."

The Vikings defense continued its success throughout the game, holding MSUB to only six shots all game, none of which were on target.

"[Our defense] is definitely a big part of our success," said Brisbon. "Our backline, whoever goes back there, our goalkeepers have been fantastic and at the end of the day if the other team doesn't score, we can't lose."

Western has conceded only four goals across 10 games of conference play according to the GNAC's website, seven less than the next



Western men's soccer players celebrate after defender Jeremiah Lee (6) scores a goal in the second half against Montana State University on Saturday, Nov. 9. // Photo by Grady Haskell

"The defense played lights out tonight like always," freshman goalkeeper Brandon Locke said. "It's insane how good we can be when we play to potential."

The Vikings' current winning streak of eight games is the longest streak since 2007 and is five games behind the for myself, and as a team program record of 13 set in 1989.

"We went from [my] first year winning I think five games on the season to winning the title with two games remaining," Lee said. "It's a fantastic feeling and seeing the progression as a player

growing together and really changing the culture."

Western will face off with second place Simon Fraser University in its final home game of the GNAC season Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. at Harrington field.

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Stadium.

#### Nolan Baker THE WESTERN FRONT

A few hundred feet away from Interbay Stadium, just past the west end line and across the parking lot, freight trains thunder past the Seattle Pacifc University Falcons hosting the No. 7 nationallyranked Western women's soccer team.

Western resembled those very freight trains that rolled through Interbay on Thursday night. For the entirety of the game, and the conference season, the Vikings were an unstoppable force, crushing teams with their unmatched speed and immense strength. Led by their stingy defense

and a 24th minute goal from sophomore forward Dayana Diaz, Western went ahead for an early lead and never put on the brakes throughout the game.

After a convincing 2-0 victory over the SPU Falcons, the Vikings became the third team in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference history to finish the conference season with a 12-0-0 record. This feat has previously only been achieved by Western in 2016 and SPU in 2007.

Coming into the last game of the regular season, both



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## Western finishes perfect conference season

Women's soccer becomes third team in GNAC history to go undefeated in conference play

was best exemplified in the teams were locked into the top two spots on the GNAC 59th minute when senior standings. Both teams have midfielder Jordyn Bartelson also clinched a berth in the and SPU freshman midfield-GNAC Championships which er Chloe Gellhaus were both begin on Nov. 14 at Interbay given yellow cards for a fight that broke out after both Western was nine points players tried desperately to by the opposing goalkeeper but squeaked across the goal

Within two minutes, the Vikings had drove over and scored on the Falcons on their home field, taking a decisive two goal lead that they

" We could find each other in the backyard and it would be as instense as always." **Arby Busey** SPU women's soccer head coach

ahead of SPU for first place in the conference, so a win by the hosting Falcons would get them within six points by season's end. But to say that this game meant nothing underplays the intense rivalry

these two teams have. "It's always going to be intense," SPU head coach Arby Busey said. "Regardless of whether there's a lot on the line, a little on the line, they're always going to bring it, we're always going to bring what we've got, and so it's a game that we're always looking forward to."

That intensity and rivalry

gain possession of the ball. We could find each other in the backyard and it would be as intense as always," Busey said. "That's what great competitors do, that's what great rivals do."

The Vikings were awarded a free kick and drove down the field and began suffocating the Falcon defense with a constant barrage of attacks.

After out-muscling a pair of SPU defenders for a loose ball inside the penalty box, senior captain Liv Larson shot a rocket into the bottom left corner of the goal that was almost corralled

rode for the rest of the game. SPU, while remaining a consistent GNAC contender, has not beaten the Vikings in 19 consecutive games. Western now leads the all-time record between the two teams 20-18-6.

While Western has dominated their conference foes, their season started off with uncertainty. Western lost two close road games in September, the first loss coming in a 1-0 overtime defeat against Cal State Los Angeles and the second a week later when they lost 2-1 against Colorado School of Mines.

After the first six games of the regular season Western was only 4-2. Since then, they have won twelve straight games with a combined score of 45-3.

Western head coach Travis Connell said those losses early in the season were a wake-up call for his team.

"We played good teams and tested ourselves on the road," Connell said. "So we definitely learned from those losses and from the close wins. That's the key, I think, is to continue to learn from those things.

Now the Vikings look ahead to the GNAC Championships, where they will face the fourth seed team in the 4 p.m. match on Nov. 14 at Interbay Stadium in Seattle.

These conference games just prepare us for the postseason, and with only a couple games left, it's crucial that we use them to make our game better," said junior goalkeeper Natalie Dierickx after Western's win against Northwest Nazarene University last week.





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## Vikings secure opening win with late push

Men's basketball pulled away with 92-88 victory over Cal State Dominguez Hills Friday night

#### Jordan Shepherd THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's basketball team opened up the season with an exciting 92-88 victory over California State Dominguez Hills on Friday, Nov. 8, in Sam Carver Gymnasium.

The Vikings hosted this year's GNAC/CCAA Conference Challenge Tournament, finishing the game 33-of-63 (52.4%) from the field and 13-of-28 (46.4%) from the three-point range. They had 16 assists, 13 turnovers, five blocked shots and four steals.

Western led the game by as many as 17 points in the second half, but had some late trouble when Dominguez Hills rallied to come within two points of the Vikings in the final minutes of play.

Clutch free throws from senior forward Trevor Jasinsky and sophomore guard Jalen Green helped to secure the win for the Vikings as Dominguez Hills went on a late fouling attempt.

"We started off hot for sure and got a little too comfortable, and they started making shots and never gave up," senior center Logan Schilder said. "They are a really good team and are going to do a lot of good things this year, but we got a good win, and we could have finished a little stronger."

The victory came from an excellent team effort. Redshirt freshman guard D'Angelo Minnis, Jasinsky, Green and Schilder all finished the game with double digits.

Green finished with 20 points and eight rebounds, while Jasinsky and Schilder both finished with 17 points, including Schilder's three for five finish from the threepoint range.

The team was led by Minnis, who finished with a game high of 22 points on 9-15 shooting and shot 7-8 (87.5%) from the field in the first half of play in his official collegiate debut.

"D'Angelo was fantastic, it was fun to watch him play," head coach Tony Dominguez said in the post-game interview on VikingsTV. "He played with a lot of fire. I felt like he was a catalyst tonight, and it was a good start for him."

The Vikings return with 11 players and five starters from last year's team, who finished 15-15 overall and 9-11 in GNAC play. The team was picked as the favorite in the GNAC Conference preseason coaches' poll, and is ranked No. 6 in the D2SIDA West Region preseason media poll.



Western's forward Luke Lovelady (21) slams down a dunk in the opening minutes of the first half. Western won 92-88 in their game against California State University Dominguez Hills on Friday, Nov. 8. // Photo by Grady Haskell

Tony Dominguez is going into his eighth year as head coach of the men's basketball team with an overall record of 148-68 (0.685), where he helped the program finish 0.500 or above in each of his previous seven seasons.

The tournament started with University of California San Diego defeating Simon Fraser University 95-70 in Carver Gym Friday afternoon. The Vikings ended the tournament with a record of 1-1 after falling to University of California San Diego Saturday night by a score of 69-76. They are now 1-2 overall.

"I thought we played great for the first game and we moved the ball well," senior forward/center Cameron Retherford said. "Our offense obviously has scorers, and we are going to score, but we did give up too many offensive rebounds, and that killed us. But other than that I think we can shut people down coming down the stretch."

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